

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the specification as follows:

Please amend paragraph [0043] as follows:

[0043] FIG. 1 shows a container 100 of a chamber array arrangement according to the present invention. Container 100 is of an essentially cylindrical shape and has an external side wall 140 and comprises eight chambers 120 dividing container 100 into eight sectors of essentially similar size. Chambers 120 are separated from one another by walls 130. Container 100 and walls 130 are integrally molded and are made from polypropylene. Each chamber 120 will be filled with one probe composition, namely one type of covalently avidin-coupled polystyrene beads of 0.7 – 0.9 μm diameter, to which a specific biotinylated oligonucleotide is attached via the high affinity binding of biotin to avidin.).

Please amend paragraph [0044] as follows:

[0044] After the filling of chambers 120 with the respective beads, a cover 300 is welded on container 100. Cover 300 is made of a non-bonding material such as polyester/polypropylene laminate membrane (e.g. cat. no. 0030 127.650 supplied by Eppendorf AG, Hamburg, Germany).

Please amend paragraph [0049] as follows:

[0049] FIG. 2 shows a container 200 having walls 230 in form of an insert which may be arranged in a carrier element of the microtiter plate type. On the external side wall 240 a key-type connecting means 260 is formed. The connecting means comprises two arms 264, 266 and a web 262 connected to said arms 264, 266 which serves as a spacer between the arms 264, 266 and external side wall 240. The arms 264, 266 serve as a grip during the insertion of the container in a carrier (similar to a 96-well standard microtiter plate) and permit that a user will not come into contact with chambers 220 and help thereby to omit a contamination of chambers 220 with external material. During insertion,

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a cover is applied on container 200. Container 200 is made of plastics, such as polypropylene. Container 200 has a diameter which would permit an insertion into a well of a 96-well standard plate and its diameter is thus slightly smaller than the internal diameter of such a standard well (6.3 mm), for example about 6.0 mm.